



Tetra Tech EM Inc.

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September 14, 1998

Mr. Dennis Wong, Environmental Engineer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Engineering Field Activity West
900 Commodore Way, Building 208 (V)
San Bruno, CA 94066-5006

Subject: Phytoremediation Treatability Study
Alameda Point, Alameda, California
CLEAN II Contract No. N62474-94-D-7609, CTO No. 057

Dear Mr. Wong:

This letter summarizes our recent discussions regarding the phytoremediation treatability study being considered for the remediation of groundwater contamination at Installation Restoration (IR) Site 4 managed under Operable Unit (OU) 2 at Alameda Point. Based on our discussions, Tetra Tech EM Inc. (TtEMI) recommends that the phytoremediation treatability study be discontinued because of the reasons described in the following text.

Phytoremediation is a relatively new technology that has only produced positive results on shallow groundwater contamination. Groundwater contamination has been detected at Sites 4 and 5 at depths exceeding 30 feet below ground surface (bgs). The efficacy of phytoremediation is uncertain because no data on the performance of this method at depths exceeding 30 feet bgs have been documented. The uncertainty of this method prohibits TtEMI from recommending this technology as a viable method to remediate the contamination at Site 4. Furthermore, any data pertaining to the impact of a phytoremediation system on contamination greater than 30 feet bgs would only be available approximately 4 to 5 years following the initiation of the treatability study. The data would not be available quickly enough to consider phytoremediation as a treatment alternative for Sites 4 and 5.

Please consider this recommendation and advise us of your decision regarding this matter. I can be reached at (916) 853-4560 if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Greg Jorgensen, Ph.D.
Environmental Chemist

cc: George Kikugawa